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worthy information, while in the five appendixes we have the personalia dealt with so liberally and with such accuracy that one must feel very grateful to the unwearied labors of the three Dexters (Henry, Franklin, and Morton Dexter), continued during a period of over half a century. The two indexes are of publications and of general subjects, and the foot-notes are copious. The original documents are set forth in their own spelling, and the illustrations are only what the rigid critic needs. Altogether, after noting the limitations, hereditary and contemporaneous, of this work, every scholar must be thankful for the goodly volume, which grandly concludes with a paragraph (p. 595) revealing both severe conscience and superb catholicity. The author scouts the idea of "the Pilgrim Colony in America . . . as merely ecclesiastical in origin or development". On the contrary, "It was one of the earliest manifestations of that resistless impulse of expansion and conquest which asserted itself in the England of that period, and even earlier in Spain, and which changed the whole face of the globe."

WILLIAM ELLIOT GRIFFIS.

Les Nouvellistes. Par FRANTZ FUNCK-BRENTANO, avec la collaboration de M. PAUL D'ESTRÉE. (Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1905. Pp. viii, 331, with six reproductions of contemporary prints.)

THIS is a study of news under the ancien régime. Contrary to what might be expected, the modern newspaper is hardly more truly a descendant of the seventeenth-century and eighteenth-century pamphlet than the modern trade-union is descended from the medieval gild. Almost as remote a source of the French newspaper are those famous periodicals of the seventeenth century, the *Gazette de France* (1631), the *Journal des Savants* (1665), and the *Mercure Galant* (1672). Each of these, besides not being of daily issue, was an organ of special limited interests. The first daily newspaper of France appeared in 1777—the *Journal de Paris*. The author is not disposed to attribute this condition of things so much to the press restraints of the government from Charles IX. to Louis XV., as to the spirit of the age. "The press as we understand it, of free information and independent criticism", we are told (p. 20), "could not exist in old France."

Before the appearance of the newspaper, the curiosity of the public for news was satisfied through the medium of a class of professional newsmongers whose calling enriched the French language with a new word (*nouvelliste*), and the civilization of France with a new institution (*nouvellisme*). Indeed, a minor poet of the reign of Louis XIV. gained an ephemeral reputation by a long poem in the manner of Boileau's *Art Poétique*, entitled *La Novellomanie*. The wide activities of France under Richelieu and Mazarin and the spontaneous curiosity of the period of the Fronde created this class. The *nouvellistes* merely sought to satisfy the popular curiosity; they did not, and did not seek to, influence public opinion in any appreciable degree. Under Louis XIV. the intense interest of all France in the life of the court and the almost

continual absenteeism of many provincial families led the *nouvellistes* to widen the sphere of their activities and to reach out into the provinces for news acquired through special correspondents there. Merchants and bankers were solicited to add news items to their commercial letters.

The author divides these public gossipers into three classes: the *nouvellistes d'état*, the *nouvellistes de plein vent*, and the *spécialistes*, who dispensed literary, military, or other particular information. Each one of these classes had its especial rendezvous. The first class, the *politiques*, as they were sometimes called, frequented the corridors and anterooms of the Louvre, or hung upon the outer edge of the court at Versailles. Representatives of this class were generally of wealthy bourgeois ancestry, living upon the income of their *rentes*, who found a life of ease and vainglory in what they did. The wars of Louis XIV. raised the usefulness and dignity of the *nouvelliste*. Like the modern newspaper proprietor, he prided himself upon the importance, the accuracy, and, above all, the earliness of his information; one such enterprising individual actually had an agent with the army in Italy during the War of the Spanish Succession, and another at Toulon to watch the movement of the fleet. An interesting example of the prototype of a modern despatch "from our special correspondent" is given (pp. 90-91) in the shape of a letter written to Lionne from Cremona on February 4, 1702. This Lionne was the news-magnate of his day, and was a cousin of Hugues de Lionne, the famous diplomatic agent of Louis XIV. He organized a news bureau in the precincts of the Tuilleries; his sources of information were so high as to be semi-official. He had upon his "staff", besides the domestics and servants of every prominent man of affairs, the clerks of the various councils, the Cardinal d'Estrées, and even Hugues de Lionne's own son.

The open-air *nouvellistes* (*de plein vent*), as their name implies, were not the privileged few who had access to the Louvre and the Tuilleries, but humbler folks who frequented the street corners or other points of meeting. This class was not unlike the *improvvisatori* of Italy. "They spoke of everything with admirable assurance, and with the greatest volubility", we are told (p. 46), from which it may be inferred that the line drawn by them between real and imaginary news was not a clear one. The Pont Neuf was their favorite resort. The author has a vivid description of the scene as it must have been when the famous bridge was the foyer of Parisian life. Other rendezvous of the *nouvellistes* were the cloisters of the Célestins and the Cordeliers, the shaded alleys of the Luxembourg, and the Quai des Grands Augustins between the Pont Neuf and the Pont Saint Michel, the popularity of which as a headquarters for information went back to the days of the Ligue. In the eighteenth century the gardens of the Palais Royal, where the Duke of Orleans during the Regency and Philippe Égalité during the Revolution purchased public favor, became popular. In this century too, when imitation of things English became fashionable, the English coffee-house crept into favor. Then came the great Revolution and the birth of a host of daily newspapers.

It should be added in closing that the book upon which this brief survey is based is a work of collaboration. In his capacity as archivist of the Arsenal, M. Funck-Brentano came upon a large number of documents formerly harbored in the Bastille. These he has put at the disposal of M. Paul d'Estrée, who has performed the labor of composition. For the convenience of the reader who may wish to fare farther, each chapter is accompanied by references to wider reading.

JAMES WESTFALL THOMPSON.

Versailles and the Court under Louis XIV. By JAMES EUGENE FARMER. (New York: The Century Company. 1905. Pp. xii, 447, with 74 full-page illustrations and two plans.)

In the midst of the number of shallow books that are written upon the glories of Versailles, it is good to come upon a work as substantial as this one. It must be confessed that the gorgeous "baby-blue" and gold binding and the array of sumptuous illustrations almost led into believing that it was another gift-book for holiday time. But it has been a pleasure to read so historically accurate and so well-balanced a survey of the court of the Grand Monarque. Mr. Farmer looks at things with level eyes, and has the spirit of real research (*e. g.*, p. 73, note). He has read his sources deeply, earnestly; and, having imbibed something of the spirit of the age of which he is writing, he reflects neither the prejudice of Taine nor the adulation of a Bourbonist. Two of his observations perhaps may be quoted as examples of his historical judgment. After a minute description of the mechanism of the administration and the routine life of the king, he says: "If the monarchical machine ran well, no small part of the success was due to the fact that Louis himself did all his work each day with clock-like regularity; and to dub him a king of fêtes and reviews is to render him scant justice. With the exception of Napoleon, France has never had a sovereign who worked harder or more regularly than Louis XIV." (p. 183). Again, apropos of Louis's personality, Mr. Farmer says: "The Grand Monarch was not naturally hard of heart, but he was one of the proudest men of whom history makes mention, and on the subject of his pride he has received a vast amount of criticism. It is an open question if much of that criticism is not misplaced. Louis was not a philanthropist, nor a philosopher, nor a financier, nor a builder of better lodgings for work-ingmen; he was a king, according to his lights, and in his judgment, to be a king, was to rise and shine" (p. 210).

Mr. Farmer's book irresistibly reminds one of Ezechiel Spanheim's *Relation de la Cour de France en 1690*. Each writer's scene is the court of Louis XIV. The difference lies in the fact that Spanheim observed with his own eyes, while Mr. Farmer has looked at things through the eyes of St. Simon and Dangeau. The thing seen is the same; the point of view is much the same; the very treatment is similar. The composition of the book is a testimony to the thoroughness of the author's reading of his sources, and to the Duc de St. Simon's power of